March, 2008 **Volume 4, Issue 3** **Copyright RCT**

FROM THE EDITOR...

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CONTEST! CONTEST! CONTEST!

Yes, it's the last good contest month of the winter season. That means that plenty of good contests are on going for March, kicking off with the ARRL DX on March 1st and 2nd. Unfortunately, by the time you read this, that contest will be over. Never fear, there are others coming soon, and conditions were pretty stinky for the ARRL DX this year.

There is a full list of contests for the year at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal. Bruce Horn WA7BNM keeps this calendar current and it is a great reference.

The last big hurray for the season, besides Field Day, is the CQ WPX contest on March 29th and 30th this year. The CQ WPX is sponsored by CQ magazine and is a contest where the idea is to contact stations with different call sign prefix's. That's why it is called Worked all Prefix (WPX) contest.

It's a fun way to spend an afternoon. I am considering running the WPX this year from the mighty W7DK. If you might be interested in assisting, please let me know and we will find a place for you on the schedule.

A quick warning though, we (I) plan to go all out for this one to try and beat my all time record of 1.3 million points, so if you want to participate, be prepared to, as Jerry W7BUN would say: **KEEP UP THE RATE!**

But seriously folks, if you're interested, call me or leave an E-mail.

Spring has sprung, the grass has risen, I wonder where the flowers isen?

That's what my old man used to say, but he had a few screws loose. Spring is upon us, and allergy season should be off to a fine start soon. I hope that you folks don't have allergy problems like I do!

73 all Gary WG7X

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
13 February, 2008

The 13 February 2008 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Randy Thompson AD7FF called the meeting to order.

Officers and board members present:

President: Randy Thompson -- AD7FF
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Gary McFadden – K7UPG
Board Member: Alan Lentz –W7AML
Board Member: Al Burleson -- K7HW
Board Member:Bob Purdom -- AD7LJ
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 53 names on the attendance roster

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Was led by President Randy Thompson

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and Guests welcomed…

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

Frank AC7JY reported Vice President Jill K7JIL's father has passed away and our condolences go to her and her family. A card was passed around for signatures.

Rick KE7EMW reported that Bud Mitze K7BUD is recovering from surgery. Bud managed to attend tonight's meeting as well…

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry reported the normal utility bills, bank statements, Some QSL cards, a couple of belated Salmon Run contributions and a promotional offer to raise money by selling fireworks.

A copy of the correspondence log is attached to the original copy of the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary McFadden – K7UPG had financial information available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick KE7EMW has received many of our annual membership renewals and is processing them into the database. Do not be dismayed if your check has not cleared yet, it will soon. He passed around the new combination receipt and membership card form and reminded folks to cut out the membership card. Rick estimates our current paid membership is back up to around 200 which is typical for this time of year. To conserve postage expenses Rick tries to distribute receipts and cards at the general membership meetings, but will mail them to folks who don't regularly attend the membership meetings.

Rick also reminded folks to pay their ARRL memberships through the club, and not to wait until the end of a calendar year to do that.

A single check is fine if you are renewing your ARRL and Club membership at the same time.

VE Testing Program: John Clarke AC7WW reported that nine candidates were administered sixteen elements graded by eleven VE volunteers at the 12 February meeting. Nine elements were passed adding three new Technicians, and two General Class Amateurs to the Service. Two Candidates advanced to Extra Class and two candidates failed to achieve an upgrade or new license. A special thanks to the attending VE's; Harry W7HSA, Al AC7BU, Steve AD7AB, Joe W7RQ, Jon AD7AW, Steve KD7UBE, Jim N7RHX, Don K7QLC and Bob AD7LJ.

Hamfest: Bob Purdom AD7LJ announced that he has agreed to take the helm for the Hamfest this year, and will be looking soon for volunteers to handle the traditional Hamfest tasks.

Field Day: Bob AD7LJ also announced that the ARRL rules for this year's Field Day are out and there are some changes, in the Get On The Air, Demonstrations and added bonus opportunities in the "Educational" area. More to come…

Museum: Rich Patrick thanked Jon AC7WW for the contribution of a flat panel 15" monitor to the W7OS museum computer installation.

PROGRAM: Nick Winter – K7MO and Harry Hudson K7LAZ (Representing the WWDXC)…

Nick and Harry presented a comprehensive review of last fall's **Salmon Run** contest and a great presentation of the N7PP DX-pedition to Asotin County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Press Coverage: The Radio Club of Tacoma received great coverage in the February 8th "Sound Life" section of the News Tribune. A copy of article was passed around for those who had not yet seen it.

Valentines Day Dinner: Bob AD7LJ has also stepped in to manage the 16 February Valentine's Dinner due to Jill K7JIL being unable. Bring your favorite dish and join us on Saturday 16 April at 6 pm at the Clubhouse.

Door Prize:
A Heineken Bier Stein was won by Al K7PUC

The meeting was adjourned at 20:40 pm

APPROVEDRICHARD (LARRY) WATSON
KD4VOM
RANDY THOMPSON AD7FF
Secretary
President

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
27 February, 2008

The 28 February 2008 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Randy Thompson AD7FF called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Randy Thompson -- AD7FF
Vice President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Gary McFadden – K7UPG
Board Member: Alan Lentz –W7AML
Board Member: Al Burleson -- K7HW
Board Member: Bob Purdom -- AD7LJ
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 50 names on the attendance rosters.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Was led by President Randy Thompson AD7FF

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and Randy AD7FF welcomed our three guests

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

There were no reports of illness or silent key

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry reported the usual bank statements, utility bills, newsletters and QSL cards… We also received our annual property tax statements.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary McFadden – K7UPG

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Jill Palmer – K7JIL/Rick Rose KE7EMW reports the membership count stands at 217, with over 80 waiting processing. He also provided renewal receipts/club cards to those present.

Hamfest: Bob Purdom reported that the Hamfest site has been secured, ARRL Sanction accepted, and we have secured a table at the March 8th Mike and Key Hamfest. Bob asked members who plan to attend the Mike and Key Hamfest to take some time to relieve our club members manning our club table. There were flyers for the Mike and Key Hamfest as well as our Hamfest on the reception table.

Library Report: Al Ferguson N7OMS reported progress has resumed on the Library shelving project.

PROGRAM: Al Williams K7PUC provided an outstanding program on schematic diagrams and how they could be redrawn to simplify them and make them much easier to understand. Al's personal experience and long time interest in this topic helped us understand that there is little to no standardization or source documents available to help those who draw schematics make them more understandable and useful to those who must use them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Emergency Operations Exercise: Several commented on the major regional Emergency Operations Exercise planned for next Wednesday, 5 March. King and Pierce county DEM's will be involved as well as the State.

Tuning and Traffic: Worth W7WG and Rick Rose KE7EMW reported on schedules attempted with Maury Kurtz KD7VJX, who is presently in Mazatlan, Mexico and has approval for operations. Several have heard Maury, and Maury has heard several from here, but thus far a solid contact has not been achieved.

Al AC7BU reported a contact with Birmingham, England which he initially mistook for Birmingham, Alabama

Worth W7WG also noted that the Whisky group frequencies are being explored for slow CW practice at 1869 kHz, at 8 pm on Tuesdays

Discussion Topics:

PSARC: Glen Galati KA7BOJ extended an invitation to club members to attend the Puget Sound Antique Radio Associations tailgate swap meet, usually on the third Sunday

Door Prize:
A bag of tools donated by Leonard KA7NWF / Was won by Larry KD4VOM

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

RICHARD (LARRY) WATSON KD4VOM
RANDY THOMPSON AD7FF

Pete, KK7QW, freezes his buns off during FYBO 2008 last month!

This cartoon is from **June, 1941 QST Magazine**. Back then, to be a ham, you had to copy Morse code to get your license, or "ticket, as it was called.

The ARRL promoted hams to copy off the air and receive a "Code Proficiency" certificate. With that certificate you could get a good paying job with our Government to help support the WWII war effort in Europe.

Next time you see **Worth, W7WG**, ask him about his adventures with the RID during WWII. His job was to listen for clandestine subversive transmissions from within our country and from afar.

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Name.....
Address.....
.....S.W.

MUSEUM MUSINGS

News from the Clifford J Doc Spike Museum

By Rich KR7W
ad hoc Museum Curator

Good Day, eh? Other than a few things listed below… there's not too much to report from the W7OS Museum this month.

Thank You to Worth, W7WG, for giving me permission to use the title of this column, "Museum Musings". Many years ago… Worth wrote a column with the same title and some of the same subject material. I hope that I can live up to your high standard on some small scale.

A huge Thanks goes out to Jon Hamilton, AD7AW, for donating the used 15 inch flat screen monitor for the Museum's PC. Once the Local Network people finish with the clubhouse network cabling (and what ever else they need to do) the PC will be used to research old radio restoration articles on the world wide web.

At the museum last Saturday, March 1, a group was gathered around an old telegraph sounder that was connected to a key and a power supply. A couple of folks were sending International Morse into the American Morse sounder and comparing the sound… Clicks and Clacks VS Dits and Dahs. Big fun. Someone asked if this key and sounder could be hooked up permanently. Sure… that is part of the plan. Soon the Sounder will be mounted to the top of the old telegrapher's desk and the key will be bolted to it's proper operating position on the desk to the right of the mill (old typewriter). A telegraph relay will be incorporated into the circuitry to give the look of a real railroad telegraph station. So, if anyone out there in readership land has any old A Igniter (crank phone) batteries (7" high X 2.5" round) to give away… the museum can use them.

The sounder can be seen in the correct position. A relay and old timey battery will set to the left. The key will be screwed down to the right side of the desk.

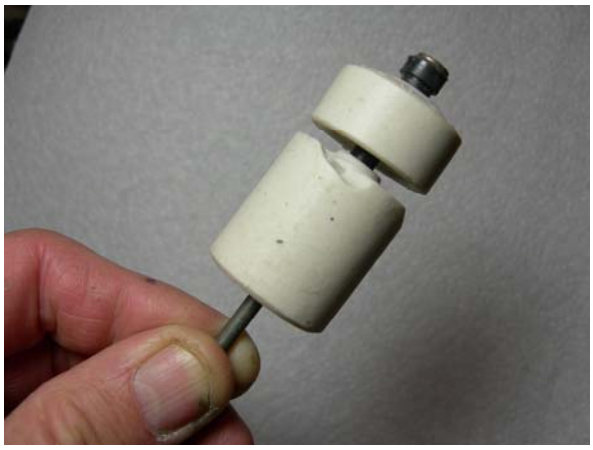
The left foto above show the arrows pointing to the telegraph relays. One of these will be used for the American Morse demonstration station. The foto to the right shows a closer view of the sounder.

The museum is still in need of 'knob and tube' insulators… knot the tube, but we need the knob. Maybe you have an old rusty coffee can on a shelf in your basement or garage that contains these insulators. See foto…

The museum regulars have been busy helping with the RCT Library effort instead of focusing on activities in the museum. Chuck AC7QN and Rich KR7W have been cutting out,

Continued next page

assembling, and installing the last of the library shelves to the east of the second floor stairwell. The last of the shelves have been screwed into place and ready for nail hole filling, sanding, and painting. The trim will be installed around the short wall and the lighting will be changed to be less harsh.



The KNOB part of the knob and tube combo. The museum needs some of these to replace the knot antique like plastic electric fence insulators on the south ceiling open wire line.

Big Contest…

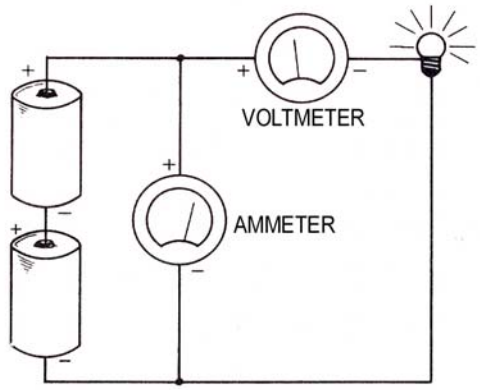
The first person that emails me with the correct answer to the following question wins a prize to be presented at an upcoming RCT Club meeting. Here's the question:

Q: What is the problem with the battery / meter circuit shown in the upper right corner of this page?

A: Explain your answer in detail so other readers will learn from it.

Email to **webgeekXX@w7dk.org** (remove the XX for proper delivery).

That's All Folks… from the W7OS Museum.
-30- Rich KR7W



Hey Joe… don't be fooled by the question that uses this diagram when you take your Class A test.

Get Plugged In

visit your club's website
www.w7dk.org
for the latest news and club activities

Dateline: March 2008

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more…

Sparky's *welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

- *The Year Ahead*
- *Valentines Dinner, Tradition Continued*
- *Library— moving forward*
- *Hamfest, Time to get involved*
- *Network installation underway…*

The Year Ahead… and new beginnings

One thing leads to another, at least that's what we've come to expect.

We've had an auspicious start to our program year, with such stellar programs as "Radio in Southwest Asia, the "Software Defined Radio", a look at the regional medical communications structure, as well as a reprise of last fall's Salmon Run contest and DXpedition.

Valentines Dinner — Tradition Continued

On Saturday February 16th the Clubhouse was spiffied up for our traditional Valentine's dinner. Although Jill was grieving the recent loss of her father and couldn't be with us, perennial can-do Bob AD7LJ stepped in with help from all to keep the tradition alive. With some special decorations provided by Leonard KA7NWF and help from many to spread out the pink tablecloths.. Lots of food, valentines candy and camaraderie...

Library — moving forward

Our library renovation and remodeling project is moving right along. A brand new hand crafted table in nearing completion and the East side bookshelf bases are underway. It won't be long now before we can restock the shelves and have a pleasant and welcoming area to browse our extensive collection of historical and technical documents. Recent contributions have filled major gaps in our QST collection and the library has received budget approval to acquire some key documents. Special thanks are due to Doug Oakman AD7AV, Al Ferguson N7OMS, Rich Patrick KR7W, Pat Wingerter WT7N, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN and all the others who have moved this project from a plan to reality...

Hamfest, Leader stands up, now it's your turn...

Although Hamfest comes in August, the getting ready starts almost as last years fest comes to an end. "It takes a village" and is a year long event.... Reservations must be made, ARRL sanction secured, flyers prepared, vendors notified, and announcements sent out to all the folks we hope will come. Coming up soon should be our planning meeting to go over the who does what and when list. The Hamfest is an important part of the Club, so when the meeting is announced, Sparky hopes you will show and offer to help make things happen. You can also help by getting the word out on the nets you participate in and picking up a hand full of fliers from the clubhouse or membership meetings to help encourage attendance… Thanks to Bob AD7LJ for taking on this years Fest.

Attaboys:

Cooperation is critical to many things, especially in an all-volunteer organization like ours. Our recent acquisition of a prized QST collection was made possible by someone searching and finding the collection for sale, the rapid response by members of the library team, followed by several stepping up to donate the cash needed to cover the cost. The Museum is sporting a donated computer, and Jon Hamilton AD7AW donated a flat screen monitor to the cause as well as providing a Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) for our packet system…

It takes some stretching and special cooperation to make things happen

Network Installation Underway…

Sparky has noticed that after months of planning, Nick K7MO and Al N7OMS are stringing network cabling in the Clubhouse. Several changes are beginning to come closer to completion, moving the 2 meter repeater, relocating our network access service and several others which should improve our network and radio operations. Establishing a second HF station in the Seligman Radio Room is also a goal coming closer to realization… A tip of the RCT cap to those intrepid souls moving this part of our dream closer to reality…

View from the Shack…

Sparky notes — we made the News Tribune with a South Sound special with plenty of photos and some welcome words of recognition. We have also seen several new folks come by on Saturdays to get acquainted and some new faces at the regular membership meetings. A well done thank you to photo journalist Russ Carmak and Reporter Bill Hutchens who's skill and talent presented our venerable club and Amateur radio in such a positive manner.
The club could use a budding reporter to keep the Radio Club of Tacoma story and activities in the local media. If you are interested, contact the Secretary KD4VOM

Sparky also notes the new membership combination receipt and membership cards crafted by Rick Rose KE7EMW, they are a real professional job.

The new Extra Class License question pool is out, and will become effective 1 July this year...

How many Hams are there?

Novice	20,456
Technician/Plus	315,257
General	142,674
Advanced	65,367
Extra	112,019
Total	655,768

The Disclaimer...

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Sparky

It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable, Now, of course, there's shipping and handling too...

Happy Birthday March

Day	Name	Call	RCT Number
5	Ray Carlson	**W7RDZ**	1739
7	Steve Terjeson	**KC7AZW**	1687
8	Link Jackman	**N7CEO**	988
9	Al Williams	**K7PUC**	1845
10	Dick Ohls	**K7ITX**	546
12	Eric Young	**KA7ZFW**	2342
14	Roy Ernsbarger	**KA7X**	851
14	Susan Schooler	**KE7SPS**	2282
15	Bob Heselberg	**K7MXE**	461
15	Joanne Souter	**WA4KZQ**	1925
16	Eric Langlow	**WA7GHE**	572
16	Jerry Cerny	**W7JC**	1354
17	Frank Henshaw	**K7VMG**	2317
17	Jon Hamilton	**AD7AW**	2209
17	Patrick Kern	**K7IBC**	2219
19	Randy Thompson	**AD7FF**	2162
21	Al Carter	**K5EAF**	1321
24	Robert Nagley	**N7AHR**	1039
26	Chuck Kemmer	**AC7QN**	2088
26	Morel Guyot	**W6LIX**	1808
28	Raymond Miller	**KC7VEP**	2066

June 1941

VE REPORT John AC7WW

VE REPORT John AC7WW

Nine candidates and eleven Volunteer Examiners gathered at the Radio Club of Tacoma's clubhouse on Tuesday, February 12th 2008. Sixteen elements were graded with nine being passed. Two candidates failed to either get a new license or upgrade.

Three new Technician and two General class amateurs joined the Amateur Radio Service. Two candidates advanced to Extra Class.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

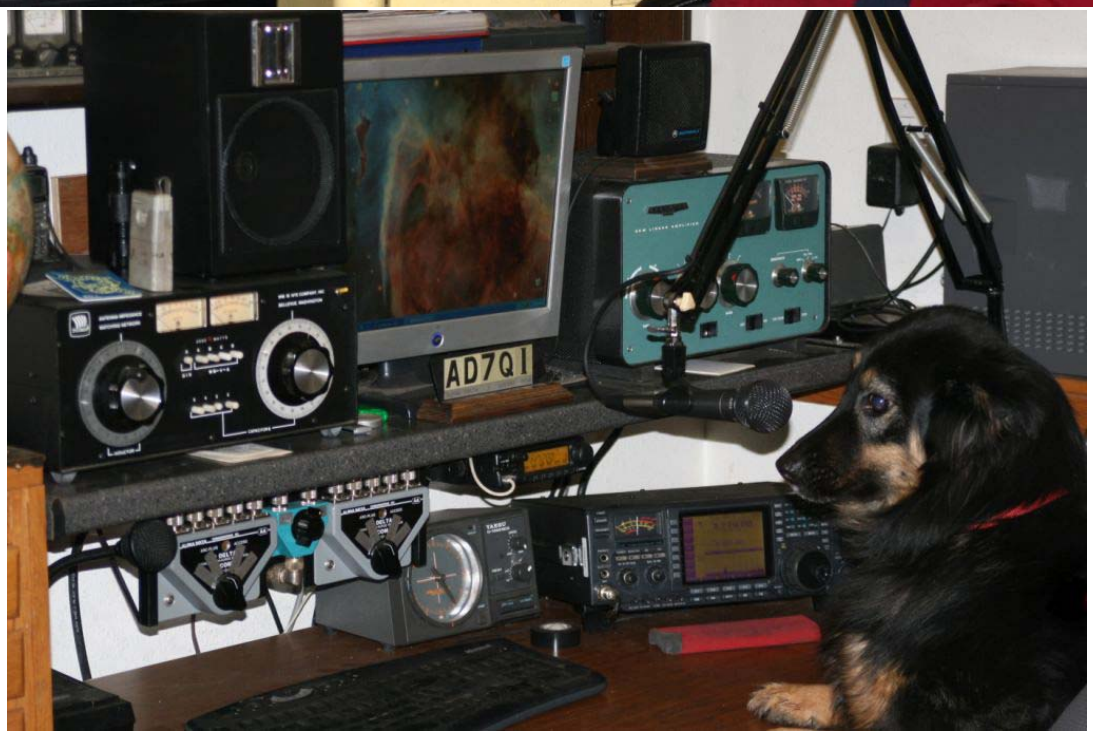
Harry, W7HSA	Joe, W7RQ	Steve, KD7UBE
Al, AC7BU	Bob, AD7LJ	
Jon, AD7AW	Jim, N7RHX	
Steve, AD7AB	Don, K7QLC	Bill, AD7QI

PHOTO OF THE MONTH!

(aka Space filler!)

That's the visitor center at Paradise on Mt. Rainier. The entire building is buried in snow, except for the third story! For scale, that's Mrs. WG7X (Sue) at the bottom!

SHACK OF THE MONTH
THIS MONTH: AD7QI



The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

The Logger's Bark **is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.**

Club Officers

President: Randy Thompson AD7FF, 253-476-9249, ad7ff@hotmail.com
Vice Pres: Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772, hamtalker2@msn.com
Secretary: Larry Watson, KD4VOM, rwatson@chirpmail.com
Treasurer: Gary McFadden, K7UPG k7upg@netzero.com

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Lentz, W7AML alentz@centurytel.net
Frank Palmer, AC7JY ac7jy@msn.com
Al Burleson K7HW burleca@mashell.com
Bob Purdom, AD7LJ, 253-606-2636, lcdrbob@hotmail.com
Gary Kohtala K7EK gary.k7ek@gmail.com

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor in Chief: "Stop the Presses!!" Gary McAdams, WG7X, thebark@comcast.net
Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854
Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma…
Send articles to: thebark@comcast.net or G dot M dot McAdams at Comcast dot net

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. RCT Members with limited/no internet access may request that a condensed, paper copy be mailed to their home address. Please contact Rick Rose – KE7EMW at (253) 581-7673 or RCT-Membership@comcast.net to request The Logger's Bark home-delivery.

ADVERTISE in the BARK: $60.00 full page, $30.00 half page, $15.00 quarter page, $5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.
Want / For Sale ads are free to members. The Logger's Bark does not verify or guarantee statements in the Want For Sale listings.
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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 RCT Packet 144.91
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County) 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma 440.625 + PL=103.5

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

TO RCT MEMBER:

MARCH 2008 EVENTS

Club Meetings: Wednesdays March 12th and 26th at the library Administration building at 7:30 PM, 112th & Waller road. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting, Wednesday March 5th, 7:30 PM at the. Clubhouse - All members welcome.

License Testing - Tuesday March 11th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse.

BARK deadline - Last week-end of every month.. PLEASE get articles, columns, etc. in by that time!

- Support OUR club - Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer.
- Check in to the 2-meter Net every Tuesday night at 7:30, on 147.28. Hear additional information on programs and other events.
- Check in on the 10 Meter Net every Sunday evening, 8 PM, on 28.375 MHz USB